

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04464 01 OF 02 131119Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 AID-05 /083 W
-----131231Z 098275 /11

R 121719Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 569
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR
CINCUSANVEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USDOCOSOUTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ATHENS 4464

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR MPOL MARR NATO GR US
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF SPEAKS UP IN PARLIAMENT IN
SUPPORT OF GREEK TIES WITH NATO AND THE U.S.

REF: A. ATHENS 82(DTG 041546Z JAN 77)(NOTAL); B. ATHENS 3130
(DTG 061437Z APR 77)

1. SUMMARY. GREEK MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AVEROFF
HAS AGAIN SPOKEN UP FORCEFULLY IN PARLIAMENT IN
SUPPORT OF GREECE'S DEFENSE TIES WITH NATO AND THE U.S.
HE REITERATED THE NOW WELL-KNOWN GREEK POSITION THAT GREECE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04464 01 OF 02 131119Z

BELONGS TO THE WEST. HE THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS GREECE'S
RELATIONS WITH NATO INDICATING NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROCESS
CONCERNING GREECE'S STATUS. NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR U.S.
BASES IN GREECE WERE BEING WORKED OUT WHICH WOULD
LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF BASES WITH THOSE
REMAINING UNDER GREEK COMMAND. HE AGAIN REFUSED TO
COMMENT ON THE EXISTENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON GREEK SOIL.

END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PARLIAMENTARY INTERPELLATIONS THE NIGHT OF MAY 10, A DEPUTY FROM THE OPPOSITION PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT --PASOK-- (KAKLAMANIS) QUERIED THE DEFENSE MINISTER ON GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH NATO AND ABOUT U.S. BASES IN GREECE. KAKLAMANIS CHARGED THAT GREECE HAS NEVER WITHDRAWN FROM NATO, AS THE GOG HAS CLAIMED SINCE AUGUST 1974, AND REMAINING IN NATO DID NOT SERVE GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS. MOREOVER, HE SAID, INSTEAD OF REDUCING THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN BASES THEY ARE BEING INCREASED. AND THE BASES, HE DECLARED, HAVE MADE GREECE A TARGET FOR DESTRUCTION IN THE EVENT OF LOCAL OR GENERAL WAR; THEY DO NOT SERVE GREEK INTERESTS, HE ADDED. HE THEN CALLED FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE BASES, IN WHICH, HE MAINTAINED, THE PEOPLE WOULD VOTE AGAINST NATO AND U.S. BASES. KAKLAMANIS WENT ON TO ALLEGE THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS IN LONDON ON MONDAY, WAS ACTING ON BEHALF OF NATO AND THE U.S. AND HAD URGED THAT GREECE RETURN TO FULL AND COMPLETE INTEGRATION IN NATO.

3. DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF STATED AT THE OUTSET THAT GREECE BELONGS TO THE WEST CULTURALLY, ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE. "I AM FOR NATO, I DO NOT HIDE IT AND HAVE NEVER HIDDEN IT...AND THAT IS WHERE GREECE BELONGS, IN THE DEFENSE CAMP OF THE FREE WORLD." (BECAUSE ITS MEMBERS ALL HAVE DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY REGIMES, HE COMMENTED, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT NATO IS ANYTHING BY A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE.) BECAUSE OF NATO'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ATHENS 04464 01 OF 02 131119Z

FAILURE TO TAKE ANY ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE CYPRUS CRISIS, AVEROFF STATED, GREECE WITHDREW FROM THE ALLIANCE AS A POLITICAL ACT AND REMOVED ITS ARMED FORCES FROM THE INTEGRATED COMMAND STRUCTURE. GREEK FORCES ARE THUS NOW UNDER NATIONAL COMMAND. HOWEVER, HE DECLARED (AS BOTH HE AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAVE STATED ON OTHER OCCASIONS), IN THE EVENT OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT GREECE WILL BE AT THE SIDE OF THE ALLIANCE. MEANWHILE, HE SAID, DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE REGARDING THE NEW STATUS OF GREECE'S RELATIONS WITH NATO, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, CHANGING THE GOG'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MILITARY WING OF NATO.

4. ADDRESSING THE QUESTION OF U.S. BASES IN GREECE, AVEROFF SAID THAT WE WERE IN THE LAST STAGE OF WORKING OUT A NEW AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD GOVERN GREECE'S DEFENSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.. THERE WOULD BE NO NEW BASES OR ANY EXPANSION OF BASES BUT, TO THE CONTRARY, A REDUCTION. THE NEW AGREEMENT ENVISAGES THAT SOME BASES WILL BE ABOLISHED AND ALL THOSE

WHICH ARE RETAINED WILL BE UNDER THE SUBSTANTIVE CONTROL OF A GREEK COMMANDER WHO WILL HAVE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ALL SECRETS CONCERNING THAT BASE. THE BASES WHICH WILL BE RETAINED ARE THOSE WHICH ARE USEFUL TO THE ALLIANCE AND, FIRST OF ALL, NEEDED FOR GREECE'S NATIONAL DEFENSE. IN REFERENCE TO KAKLAMANIS' CALL FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN BASES, AVEROFF STATED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD (IN 1978) AND THE VERDICT WOULD SHOW WHAT THE PEOPLE THOUGHT OF PASOK'S POSITIONS ON DEFENSE. HE AGAIN DECLINED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN GREECE BUT DID GO SO FAR AS TO SAY THAT, AS THE PRIME MINISTER HAS STATED, THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS LOCATED ON ANY OF THE BASES UNDER NEGOTIATION. IN ANY CASE, HE COMMENTED SUBSEQUENTLY, ALL WEAPONS OF WHATEVER TYPE REQUIRE GREEK GOVERNMENT APPROVAL TO BE USED.

5. SPEAKING ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. AVEROFF SAID THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ATHENS 04464 01 OF 02 131119Z

ONE SHOULD NOT BLAME THE AMERICANS FOR EVERYTHING (WHICH IS A COMMON PRACTICE HERE). I DO NOT SAY, HE CONTINUED, THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT SIN, BUT WHO IS, HE ASKED. WITH RESPECT TO THE CYPRUS TRAGEDY, HE WONDERED WHY GREEKS SHOULD SAY THAT THE INVASION OF CYPRUS RESULTED NOT BECAUSE OF THE JULY 15 COUP BUT BECAUSE OF THE AMERICANS. ON MANY OCCASIONS,

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 04464 02 OF 02 131117Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 AID-05 /083 W
-----131232Z 098232 /45

R 121719Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 570
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
USDOCOSOUTH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ATHENS 4464

HE CONTINUED, THE AMERICANS DID NOT TAKE GREECE'S SIDE BUT REMAINED NEUTRAL IN A DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO OF THEIR FRIENDS WHO COULD NOT RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS. WHEREAS GREEKS COULD BLAME THE AMERICANS FOR THEIR NEUTRALITY, THEY COULD NOT FORGET THAT THERE WERE GREEK ECONOMIC AND ETHNIC REASONS AND ALSO THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARMING GREECE'S MILITARY FORCES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. HE MENTIONED THAT THE FACT THE GREEK ARMED FORCES ARE WELL EQUIPPED TODAY IS BECAUSE OF "THEM", I.E. THE AMERICANS. FINALLY, AVEROFF REBUTTED THE CLAIM THAT HE WAS THE DARLING OF THE AMERICANS. I KNOW VERY WELL, AVEROFF COMMENTED, THAT ANY POLITICIAN WHO TRIES TO GET AHEAD ON THE BASIS OF FAVORITISM
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 04464 02 OF 02 131117Z

FROM FOREIGNERS IS CONDEMNED TO FAILURE. IN ANY CASE, HE ADDED, HIS CANDIDACY FOR NATO SECRETARY GENERAL HAD NOT BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICANS. (WE WERE NOT AWARE THAT AVEROFF HAD EVER SUBMITTED HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE POST OF NATO SECRETARY GENERAL.)

6. THE ABOVE IS BASED ON NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF THE DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT. WE WILL SEND A SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT AFTER WE HAVE SEEN THE OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IF THERE ARE ANY IMPORTANT POINTS NOT COVERED HERE. KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEBATES, SPEECHES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS04464
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770169-0219
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770567/aaaacfpz.tel
Line Count: 210
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 73eab695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 82, 77 ATHENS 3130
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2554997
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF SPEAKS UP IN PARLIAMENT IN SUPPORT OF GREEK TIES WITH NATO AND THE U.S.
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, MARR, GR, US, NATO, (AVEROFF, EVANGELOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/73eab695-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009